Applicability of Freights Equalisation Scheme

350. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) which are the items for which the freight equalisation scheme is applicable at present;

(b) whether some State Governments have demanded extension of the scheme for some other items also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) to (c) At present the freight equalisation scheme is applicable to steel and cement. In 1973, some State Governments suggested freight equalisation for raw cotton. A Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce to examine this proposal. After considering various implications, the committee found it difficult to recommend any freight equalisation scheme for raw-cost cotton. It, however, requested the Planning Commission to undertake a study in the overall context of freight equalisation of such commodities as steel, cement etc. Accordingly, an Interministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Marathe, then Secretary, Industrial Department, was set up primarily to study the scope and feasibility and adoption of Freight Equalisation Policy for raw cotton. The Committee came to the conclusion that it would not be advisable to do so. The Group further recommended that the Freight Equalisation Scheme need not be extended to any other commodity and that the existing schemes be phased out over a period of time.

The Freight Equalisation Scheme again came up for review by the National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee). This Committee also expressed its view against extending the Freight Equalisation Scheme to any other commodity. On the other hand, it recommended that even the existing schemes of Freight Equalisation on Industrial Commodities like steel and cement be phased out. Government have already accepted these recommendations, subject to subsidisation of transport to remote inaccessible and isolated areas. Modalities and time phasing of withdrawal of Freight Equalisation are under consideration of Government.

Deficiency of teaching staff in NDA, Pune

351. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that deficiency of teaching staff in the National Defence Academy has been persisting for long ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regards stating the period for which the deficiency has been continuing and the extent to which the teaching schedule has been disturbed as a consequence thereof ; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up the vacant posts in the Academy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMNT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The posts of 7 professors, 8 Readers and 37 Lecturers have not been filled on regular basis since 1985. *Ad hoc* appointments, on short-term basis,